UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/600,383	06/20/2003	Travis M. Drucker	ROC920030172US1	8543

46797   7590   03/19/2007

IBM CORPORATION, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
DEPT 917, BLDG. 006-1
3605 HIGHWAY 52 NORTH
ROCHESTER, MN 55901-7829

EXAMINER
MIZRAHI, DIANE D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2165	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
03/19/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 10/06)

APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER

20070308

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

This office action of March 8, 2007 formally corrects several typographical errors on the office action dated 12-11-06. (Please see attached corrected allowance and interview summary.

Diane Mizrahi
Primary Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

" $\mathcal{S}$UPPLEMENTAL *"*	**Application No.**	**Applicant(s)**
Interview Summary	10/600,383	DRUCKER ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	DIANE D. MIZRAHI	2165	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) *Gero G. McClellan*.   (3)_____.

(2) *Diane Mizrahi*.   (4)_____.

   Date of Interview: *11 December 2006*.

   Type: a)☒ Telephonic   b)☐ Video Conference
          c)☐ Personal [copy given to: 1)☐ applicant   2)☐ applicant's representative]

   Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d)☐ Yes   e)☒ No.
      If Yes, brief description: _____.

   Claim(s) discussed: *1, 11 and 13-17*.

   Identification of prior art discussed: *None*.

   Agreement with respect to the claims f)☒ was reached.   g)☐ was not reached.   h)☐ N/A.

   Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: *Claims 13 and 15 have been canceled as per Examiner's amendment dated 12-11-2006. Claims 1, 11, 14, 16 have been amendment as per Examiner's amendment attached* .

   (A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

   THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Diane Mizrahi
Primary Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an
Attachment to a signed Office action.

_____
Examiner's signature, if required

Continuation of Attachment(s) 9. Other: This corrects the record sent on 20061212.

Diane Mizrahi
Primary Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2700

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT   (SUPPLEMENTAL)

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Attorney Gero G. McClellan on December 11, 2006. This corrects the amendment of November

14, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended)   A computer-implemented method for referencing a

plurality of data points, from a collection of data, comprising:

creating an annotation associated with the plurality of data points;

creating an edge definition for the plurality of data points comprising information which

defines at least two edges that bind the plurality of data points wherein the edge definition

comprises a fewer number of data points than the plurality of data points;

storing the annotation; and

storing the edge definition in association with the annotation in a manner allowing

retrieval of the annotation on the basis of the edge definition for a specified set of plurality of

data points;

receiving a request for annotations for a second selection of data;

retrieving the annotation created for the first selection of data upon determining that the

second selection of data is contained, at least partially, within the first selection of data, based on

the edge definition for the first selection of data; and

returning the retrieved annotation.

11.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing a program which,

when executed by a processor, performs operations comprising:

receiving a first selection of data comprising a plurality of data points and spanning at

least two columns and at least two rows of an at least two-dimensional collection of data;

creating an edge definition for the first selection of data which defines a horizontal edge

spanning the at least two columns and a vertical edge spanning the at least two rows wherein the

edge definition comprises a fewer number of data points than the first selection of data; and

storing the edge definition in association with an annotation created for the first selection

of data, wherein the edge definition is stored in association with the annotation in a manner

allowing retrieval of the annotation on the basis of the edge definition for the first selection of

data; wherein the storing comprises:

creating an index for the first selection of data; and

storing the index with the edge definition in the edge definition table;

receiving a request for annotations for a second selection of data;

retrieving the annotation created for the first selection of data upon determining that the

second selection of data is contained, at least partially, within the first selection of data, based on

the edge definition for the first selection of data; wherein retrieving the annotation is done using the index created for the first selection of data; and

returning the retrieved annotation.

13.   (Canceled)   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the storing comprises:

creating an index for the first selection of data; and

storing the index with the edge definition in the edge definition table.

14.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim [[13]]11, wherein the operations further comprise creating an annotation record comprising the annotation created for the first selection of data and the index.

15.   (Canceled)   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the operations further comprise:

receiving a request for annotations for a second selection of data;

determining if the second selection of data is contained, at least partially, within the first selection of data, based on the edge definition for the first selection of data; and

if so, retrieving the annotation created for the first selection of data, using the index created for the first selection of data and returning the annotation created for the first selection of data.

16.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the

operations further comprise:

retrieving annotations associated with other selections of data upon determining ~~if~~ that

the second selection of data is contained, at least partially, within the other selections of data,

based on corresponding edge definitions for the other selections of data; wherein retrieving the

annotations is done using indexes created for the other selections of data; and

~~if so, retrieving annotations associated with the other selections of data, using indexes~~

~~created for the other selections of data, and~~ returning the annotations for the other selections of

data.

17.   (Previously Presented)   An annotation system, comprising:

an annotation database;

an edge definition table; and

an executable component configured to:

create an edge definition for a selection of data comprising a plurality of data points, the

edge definition comprising data points which define one or more bounding edges of the selection

of data wherein the edge definition comprises a fewer number of data points than the selection of

data,

create an index for the selection of data,

store the edge definition and index for the selection of data in the edge definition table,

and store, in the annotation database, an annotation record comprising an annotation for the

selection of data and the index, whereby annotation records contained in the annotation database

are retrievable, for a specified set of data points of the selection of data, on the basis of the edge

definition.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-12,14,16-28 are allowed over the prior art made of record.

Comments

The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee

have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the

corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH

statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for

reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid

abandonment of this application.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for

Allowance."

As allowable subject matter has been indicated, Applicant's response must either comply

with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37

CRF 1.111(b) and MPEP section 707.07(a).

Other Prior Art Made of Record

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's

disclosure. U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications will not be supplied with Office

actions. Examiners advises the Applicant that the cited U.S. patents and patent application
publications are available for download via the Office's PAIR. As an alternate source, all U.S.
patents and patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site
(www.uspto.gov), from the Office of Public Records and from commercial sources. For the use
of the Office's PAIR system, Applicants may refer to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at
http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html or 1-866-217-9197.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Diane D. Mizrahi whose telephone number is 571-272-4079. The
examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on (571) 272-4146. The fax phone numbers for the
organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular
communications and (703) 305-3900 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.
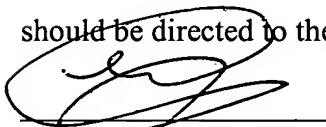
Diane Mizrahi
Primary Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

December 11, 2006